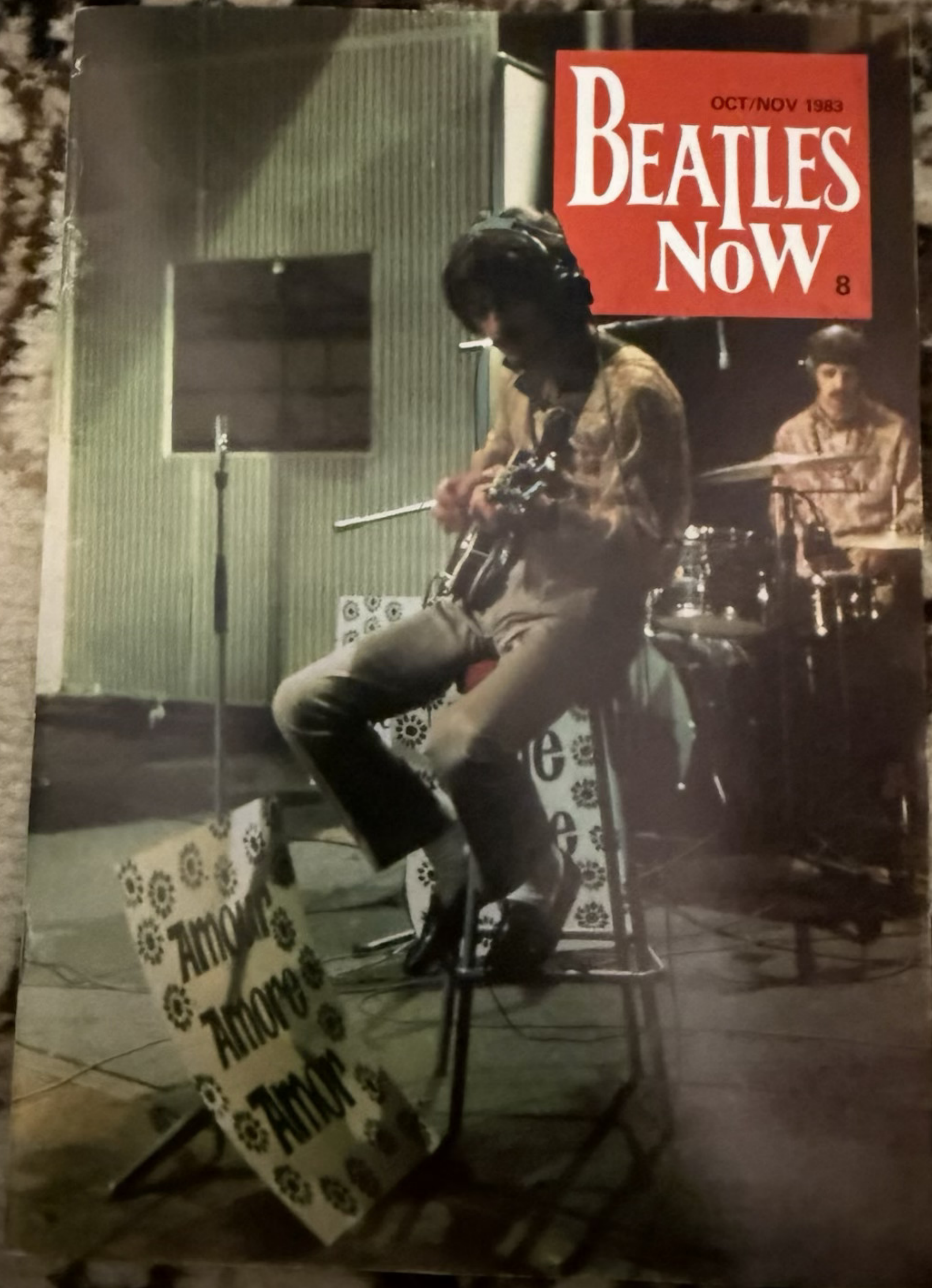


OCT/NOV 1983

BEATLES Now

8



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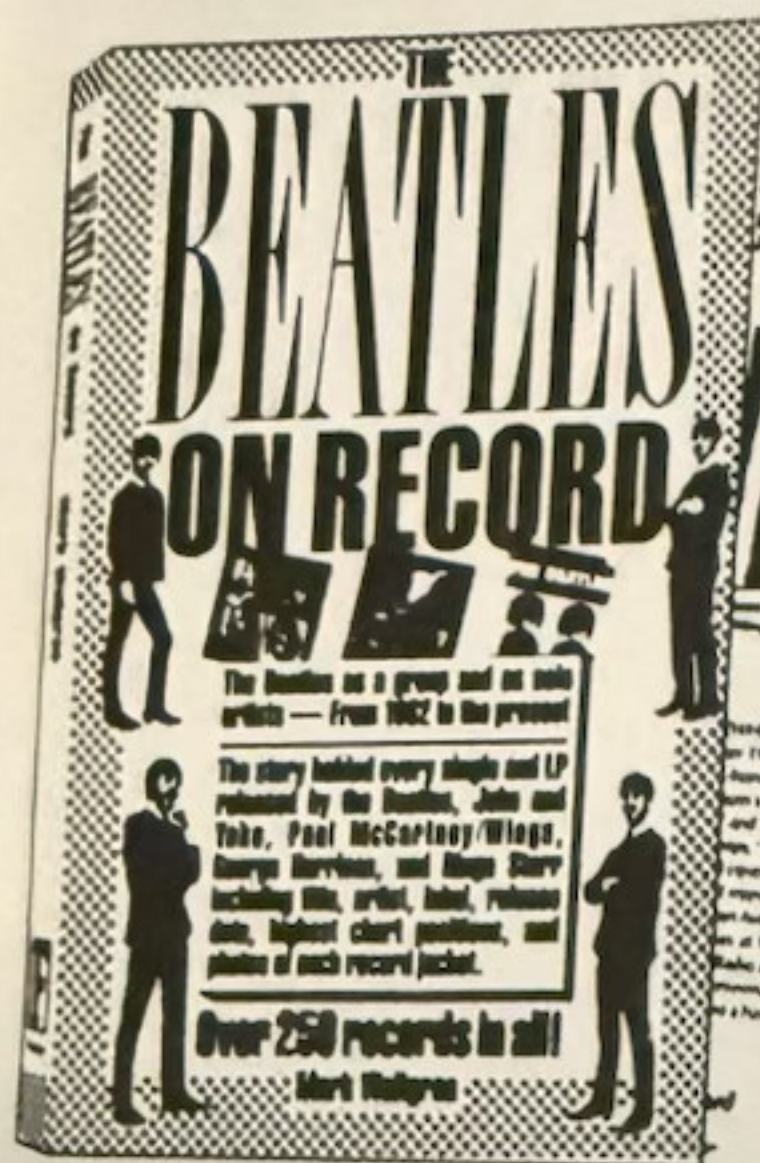
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Capitol 4874
May 31, 1970



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THE BEATLES and Frank Ifield
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February 28, 1968



PLEASE PLEASE ME/PLEASE PLEASE ME
THE BEATLES
Apple 2533
May 11, 1970 (May 28, 1970)

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD/FOR YOU BLUE
THE BEATLES
Apple 2533
May 11, 1970 (May 28, 1970)



In the following year, the Beatles released their final studio album, 'Let It Be', which was a collection of live recordings from their rooftop performances in London. The album was a commercial success, reaching number one on the U.S. Billboard chart and number two on the U.K. chart. It was also the last album to feature all four Beatles.

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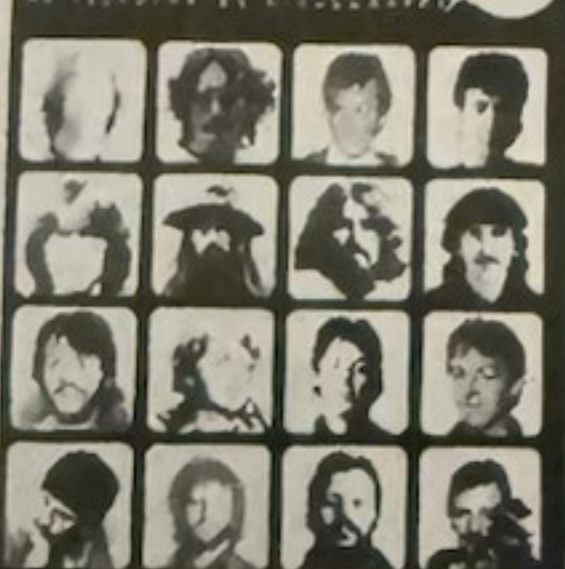
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THE BEATLES

NEWS DIARY

The Liverpool Three Day Convention at the end of August was another great success attracting large crowds each day. The *Beatles Now* Team were present for the second successive year and it was good to see existing readers and meet new subscribers.

- The doors closed on the Abbey Road Spectacular on Sunday 11th September. Again we were present on this historic occasion along with many other fans who filled No. 2 studio to see and hear its last showing. It is rumoured that an event may take place next year which will be completely different, but details have not been disclosed

- To mark the 21st anniversary of the Beatles 1st TV appearance, Granada TV will be showing a special documentary called "The Early Beatles" on British TV in October. The hour long compilation of material comes from the television company's archives in Manchester. It will include film from 1962 shot in the Cavern which has never been used before, due to bad lighting and poor sound quality.

- The caravan which John had painted in psychedelic colours during the Flower Power era of 1967 is to be used as a swimming pool changing room by its new owners.

- The "Beatle City" Museum planned by Liverpool's Radio City is now reported to be costing double the original figure, but is still expected to open in January 1984. It is

hoped a detailed report on what to expect will be in our next issue.

- Paul, George and Ringo made a rare re-union a few weeks ago in London to discuss working together on part of the soundtrack for Paul's forthcoming film "Give My Regards To Broadstreet". One scene in the film shows Paul dressed as a Busker and he was actually filmed in a London street in the early hours of a morning. The late night passers-by didn't recognise him - some even threw money into his hat!!!

- The rumour of a tape of the Beatles and Elvis actually playing together, again reared its head a few weeks ago when the U.K. magazine *Titbits* reported of its existence. Many of their disclosed facts were obviously incorrect but does such a tape really exist?

- The video of "The Concert for Bangla Desh" has finally been released which is an edited version of the original film.

- Since our last issue the Beatles fourth single "She Loves You" has been re-issued on its 20th anniversary in a new picture sleeve and also as a picture disc. "I Want To Hold Your Hand" is also expected to be released in these formats but future re-issues are at present uncertain.



- Capitol in the making plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beatles.

- In a recent issue in the U.S., Yoko "Milk and Honey" by Christmas. The place in New York include five songs by Yoko. The titles to be included are "Grow Old With Me" and "Borrowed Time".

- On September 1st photographs of the Beatles was published. It is available only in hardcover and sells for £7.95. Paul Freeman has photographs for the book "With The Beatles".

- The January issue feature an exclusive by Yoko by David. The famous "Plastic Ono Band" Lennons show seems inspired by response to the recently available. It includes interviews with John and Paul.

- Reports of the Beatles reuniting for Christmas.

- The Fifth Beatle to take place during 25th anniversary date news. F. Rosenblatt, Haven, CT.

- For U.S. Convention and Sun Central Hall. McCartney and Campbell.

● Capitol in the U.S.A. are currently making plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Beatles arrival in the U.S.

● In a recent interview with the *L.A. Times* in the U.S., Yoko said the long awaited "Milk and Honey" L.P. would be released by Christmas. Re-mixing is still taking place in New York and it is expected to include five songs by John and five by Yoko. The titles of some of John's songs to be included are "I Don't Want To Face It", "Grow Old With Me" and "(Living On) Borrowed Time".

● On September 15th a portfolio of photographs taken by Robert Freeman was published called "Yesterday". Available only in hardback format the book sells for £7.95 and includes a Foreword by Paul. Freeman took many of the photographs for the early album sleeves including "With The Beatles" and "Beatles For Sale".

● The January 1984 issue of *Playboy* will feature an extensive article on John and Yoko by David Sheff. Sheff conducted the famous *Playboy* interview with the Lennons shortly before John's death and seems inspired to write this new story in response to the many new books currently available about John. The article will include interviews with close friends of John and an interview with Yoko.

● Reports suggest there will be a Beatles release of some kind before Christmas. (Another Compilation?)

● The Fifth New England Convention is to take place in New Haven, Connecticut, during 25th-27th November. For up to date news of guests, etc. contact Charles F. Rosenay, 397 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06511.

● For UK fans there will be a two-day Convention in Scotland on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March 1984 at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. Further information can be obtained from the Paul McCartney Fan Club, 8 Johnson Drive, Cambuslang, Glasgow.

● Ringo's new album "Old Wave" which has been held up for some time is finally been released, but only so far in a limited number of countries including West Germany and Canada. A single co-written by Ringo has also been issued called "In My Car". There are as yet no details of a U.K. release.



A review of 'Old Wave' will appear in the next issue.

● Ringo and wife Barbara are to star in an up-and-coming U.S.A. TV Special called "Princess Daisy".

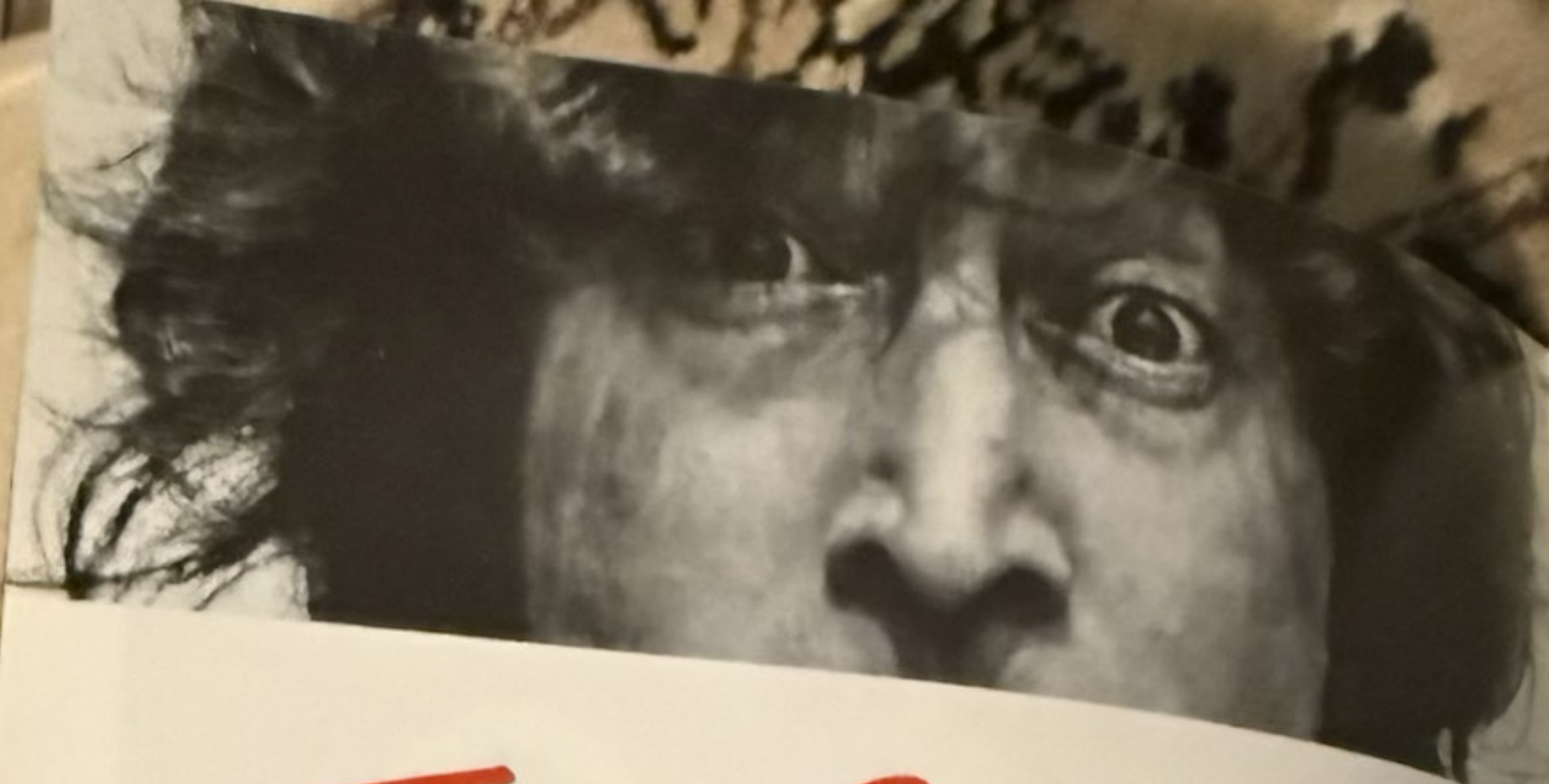
● Paul's new album now confirmed as "Pipes Of Peace" is set for release late Oct/early Nov.

● Finally, congratulations to our own Steve Phillips on winning the Liverpool Convention's Beatles Quiz.

To all my friends and correspondents, wish to apologise to everyone who has written to me over recent weeks and as yet have not received a reply. I am currently making arrangements to move to London and obviously this must take priority. I hope normal service will be resumed as soon as possible!

Regards, David.

Thanks to Janice Brinegai, Eddie Porter, Steve Phillips.



John
Lennon

The VERY LAST interview

precis by STEVE PHILLIPS

Any self-respecting John Lennon fan should, by now, have the series of interviews which he gave in late 1980 in print. For reference, there were five main interviews with John and Yoko: the Playboy interview, the Newsweek interview (conducted just prior to the release of "Double Fantasy" and marking the couples return to public life), the BBC Radio interview (conducted by Andy Peebles and later published in book form), the Rolling Stone interview (conducted on the day of his

death and published in the marvellous memorial issue of R.S.) and the final interview, with the U.S. radio station W.R.K.O.

Since non-American fans will have difficulty in obtaining the W.R.K.O. interview, below is a resumé of the conversation. The background to the "Double Fantasy" album is well covered in other interviews cited above and has been excluded in this resumé in deference to other topics. Yoko's comments are excluded for the same reason.

Why had John decided the recording scene? just the start now, this know we worked together made albums together this is the first album happened before today by this rock and roll made that initial decision vacation in Bermuda Fred Seaman, the ch triggering off John's songwriting impetus

Craftm

"I always felt that the ones that came ability, if you ask me movie or something and make a song. I want it but I can make a 'craftmanship' but tional - from the and switching o allowed that chan was switched off a again, 'zap' all this did enough mater and now we're album; so we're f

Same bi

John, as we "he was born on we're almost like me for a few day and I just get a feeling depressed seeing me, he s starts getting t make me depr can deal with i trap his finger more reason to think it's better I'm grumpy, I'm to him ... " Joh between him been in the st so he's used

Why had John decided to come back into the recording scene? "We feel like this is just the start now, this is the 'first album'. I just the start now, this is the 'first album'. I know we worked together before, we even made albums together before; we feel like this is the first album. I feel like nothing happened before today... I was possessed by this rock and roll 'devil'...". Having made that initial decision, John went for a vacation in Bermuda with Sean and aide Fred Seaman, the change of environment triggering off John's hitherto exhausted songwriting impetus.

Craftmanship

"I always felt that the best songs were the ones that came to you. I do have the ability, if you ask me to write a song for a movie or something, I can sort of sit down and make a song. I wouldn't be thrilled with it but I can make a song like that... I call it 'craftmanship' but I like it to be inspirational - from the spirit. Being with Sean and switching off from the business allowed that channel to be free for a bit, it was switched off and when I switched it on again, 'zap' all this stuff came through. We did enough material for the second album and now we're talking about the third album; so we're full of vim and vigour!"

Same birthday as Sean

John, as we know, doted on Sean;... "he was born on Oct 9th, which I was, so we're almost like twins... if he doesn't see me for a few days or if I'm really, really busy and I just get a glimpse of him or if I'm feeling depressed, without him even seeing me, he sort of picks up on it and he starts getting that way... something will make me depressed and there's no way I can deal with it and then he'll get a cold or trap his finger in the door. So now I have more reason to stay healthy and bright... I think it's better for him to see me as I am; if I'm grumpy, I'm grumpy... I don't cower to him..." John related a touching cameo between himself and Sean: "...I hadn't been in the studio for 5 years or whatever, so he's used to me being around all the

time... I was always a home-body... I started to work and he started seeing a bit less of me... one day we were sort of lying down on the bed together, maybe watching some cartoon or whatever and he just sat up and said 'you know what I want to be when I grow up?' I said 'no, what's that?' he looked me right in the eye and said 'just a daddy'. I said 'you mean you don't like it when I'm working?'... He said 'right'". John got out of that tricky situation by telling Sean that recording made him happy and therefore, a better daddy to be with.

Public image

John then turned to consider his public image, past and present. "It was most uncomfortable when I didn't feel that I was being myself... when I'd have to smile when I didn't want to smile... it became like being a politician... I like to be liked, I don't like to offend people, I would like to be a happy, contented person... I don't want to have to sell my soul again, as it were, to have a hit record. I've discovered that I can live without it and I'm not going to come back in and create a persona who would not be myself".

Relationship with Paul

Inevitably, his working relationship with Paul was covered: "Paul and I turned out a lot of songs and it was easier because it was the beginning of our relationship and career... Paul and I developed in public, as it were, we had a little rehearsal in private but mainly we developed our abilities in public... but then it got to be format and sort of not the pleasure that it was. The person who I actually picked as my partner, who I recognised had talent and I could get on with, was Paul". John had a similar gut feeling on first meeting Yoko... "so as a talent scout, I think I've done pretty damned well!"

In late 1973, John and Yoko temporarily separated - heralding John's 18 month "lost weekend". "I really, really wanted to be with her, needed to be with her and could not literally survive without her as a

BILL HARRY

THE BEATLE DETECTIVE

In a thoroughly engrossing introduction to his excellent book "A Day In The Life," **Tom Schultheiss** points out the number of aberrations in the Beatles story, the mis-spelling of names, the suspect information that continues to be produced as fact by writers. A main criticism of his work concerns the presentation of items from the National Lampoon Beatles issue, the spoof "Paperback Writer" and the **Rutles** TV show in a way which could confuse some readers. I notice in the book that he states that May 9th, 1963 is the date The Beatles appeared at the Royal Albert Hall and **Paul** met **Jane Asher**. I make this date to be April 18th (Tom does qualify his inclusion of some of these dates by quoting the various sources which have printed differing dates). If any readers notice other discrepancies in the book, please let me know and I can pass them on to Tom, who intends to update the book. Similar discrepancies are to be found in my own "Beatles Who's Who" and I would appreciate any additional information which could help me improve the book when I rewrite it. In his introduction, Tom also points out the various mis-spellings of people who were part of The Beatles story, such as **Astrid Kirchherr**. The spelling I have used is the correct one. From now on, writers can also take it from me that **Rory Storm** is the correct spelling and not **Rory Storme**. The reason for the mistakes in adding an 'e' to Rory's surname originally occurred because that is the way it was spelt in "A Cellarful Of Noise". **Mrs. Sutcliffe** also tells me that the correct spelling of Astrid's former boyfriend is

Klaus Vormann, not **Voormann**. She assures me that his real name only contains one 'o'.

The ever-helpful **Jim Hughes** of **Cavern Mecca** has provided me with some further information on the "Beat In Liverpool" book I mentioned last issue. **Mike Evans** penned an Introduction to the book, which has 196 pages in length and contained numerous black and white photographs of Liverpool in the Sixties, capturing the atmosphere of the time. Jim comments: "The book centres around **The Clayton Squares** and also contained a record by the group." "Beat In Liverpool" was printed in the German language and there was no English edition. Mike, as most of you know, penned "Nothing To Get Hung About" in Liverpool Corporation's "The Beatles Collection" package. He also co-authored "In The Footsteps Of The Beatles" with **Ron Jones**. Mike has recently completed a feasibility study for The Walker Art Gallery for an "Art Of The Beatles" exhibition and it's to go ahead, tentatively scheduled for next March. Mike handles the Rock music section of the Musician's Union, but still finds time for Beatles activities.

Perhaps you noticed the photograph of him in "The Beatles And Us," the special Beatles issue of *The Sunday Times* colour supplement earlier this year. His wife Sue was also featured, along with some pages from her 1963 diary. Incidentally, it's only a niggling little detail, but when **Tony Barrow** wrote "**Ringo** and I realised we'd already met one another very briefly way back in his days with The Clayton Squares" in his "Back



On Merseyside" article in the January 1983 issue of *Beatles Monthly*, he obviously confused them with **The Ed Clayton Skiffle Group**, of which **Ringo** was a member. The Clayton Squares didn't form until 1964.

Ray Coleman, on his return from Hamburg where he'd been researching his John Lennon book, told me that he'd heard that both **Bruno Koschmeider** and **Peter Eckhorn** had died. If this is true, it means that every club owner in Hamburg who booked The Beatles is now dead. **Manfred Weissleder**, who opened the famous Star Club, died a few years ago.

Val King of Bradford wants as much information as possible concerning **Astrid Kirchherr**, including gen about her childhood and her marriage to **Gibson Kemp** and whether she had any children. Astrid still lives in Hamburg. Despite the part she had to play in The Beatles story, she never seemed to develop her talent as a photographer. I was completely stunned with her photographs when The Beatles gave them to me to use in *Mersey Beat*. I also thought she had an intriguing and mysterious personality and striking features. If you look at the pictures of Astrid and **Stu** together, they haunt you. The couple had planned to get married in June, 1962. Astrid's marriage to **Gibson Kemp** ended a long time ago. **Gibson**, who replaced **Ringo Starr** in *Rory*

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Shortly after the album "REEL" expanded its production of the entire Beatles States. As a result a special set of Beatles the various American

The set contains singles, each featuring a selection of tracks from each of the albums: "THE BEATLES 1962-1966" and "1970". (Each set contains sound board backing different photos)

Here is the set



THE BEATLES

1. All M
2. You

continued on page 10

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by MARK WALLGREN

BEATLES FLEXI-DISC SET

Shortly after the spring 1982 release of the album "REEL MUSIC", Capitol Records expanded its promotion to include a push of the entire Beatles catalog in the United States. As a result, the company issued a special set of Beatles flexi-discs through the various American record store chains.

The set consisted of three flexi-disc singles, each featuring two songs. The selection of tracks and the different coloring of each disc corresponded with the albums: "THE BEATLES", "THE BEATLES 1962-1966" and "THE BEATLES 1967-1970". (Each flexi-disc consists of a Ebatone soundsheet pasted onto a cardboard backing. Each backing features a different photo of the Beatles).

Here is the set:



THE BEATLES 1967-1970
(blue flexi-disc)

1. Magical Mystery Tour.
2. Here Comes The Sun.



THE BEATLES 1962-1966 (red flexi-disc)

1. All My Loving.
2. You've Got To Hide Your Love Away.



THE BEATLES (clear flexi-disc)

1. Rocky Raccoon
2. Why Don't We Do It In The Road?



The discs play at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm, and were individually numbered.

The backside of each cardboard backing featured the identical collage of twenty-five Beatles albums on Capitol. The only variation was the printing of the

various record store chain names next to the words "Compliments of". Musicland, Discount Records and Sam Goody's were some of the stores chosen to participate.

According to the promotion plan, one free flexi-disc was to have been given away with every purchase of a Beatles album. Thus, in order to obtain all three flexi-discs in the set, one was expected to buy three separate albums. Not a bad deal for fans lacking certain LP's, but another rip-off for hardcore fans who already have the entire catalog. Fortunately, some fast-talking combined with the understanding and sympathy of a few record store employees and managers allowed many fans to obtain a set merely by asking.

As the summer months ended, so did the promotion, and before one knew it, the discs were suddenly selling at swap meets for as much as \$20 per set.

Thus, Capitol Records' 1982 Beatles flexi-disc set became another very collectable and rare promotional item which was NOT FOR SALE.

THE BEATLE DETECTIVE (cont.)

Storm & The Hurricanes, was a Liverpool drummer who remained in Hamburg, married Astrid and became a prominent executive in the German record industry. For a while he moved to London in an executive post at Polygram and then moved to a similar post in Australia.

I was under the impression that Paul's 21st birthday party, which took place in his Aunt Jin's house, was located in Dinas Lane, Huyton. In the June issue of *Beatles Monthly*, Tom Barrow says that it was in Birkenhead on the other side of the river. Can anyone clarify this for me?

I'm compiling a few more books on The Beatles, one of them being

bibliographical in nature. I'm looking for information on "Welcome Back Beatles", an American novel published in 1977. The plot, so I believe, concerns The Beatles in middle age. They decide to reform for a special Charity gig in Switzerland, but Paul dies of a heart attack prior to the gig.

News about the two films Ringo made with **Harry Nilsson** are also a bit thin on the ground: *Harry & Ringo's Night Out* and "Count Downe-Son Of Dracula." Any information would be welcome.

Finally, I have had some enquiries from readers who wish details of a book called "John Lennon's Diary", mentioned in "The Ballad Of John & Yoko" book.

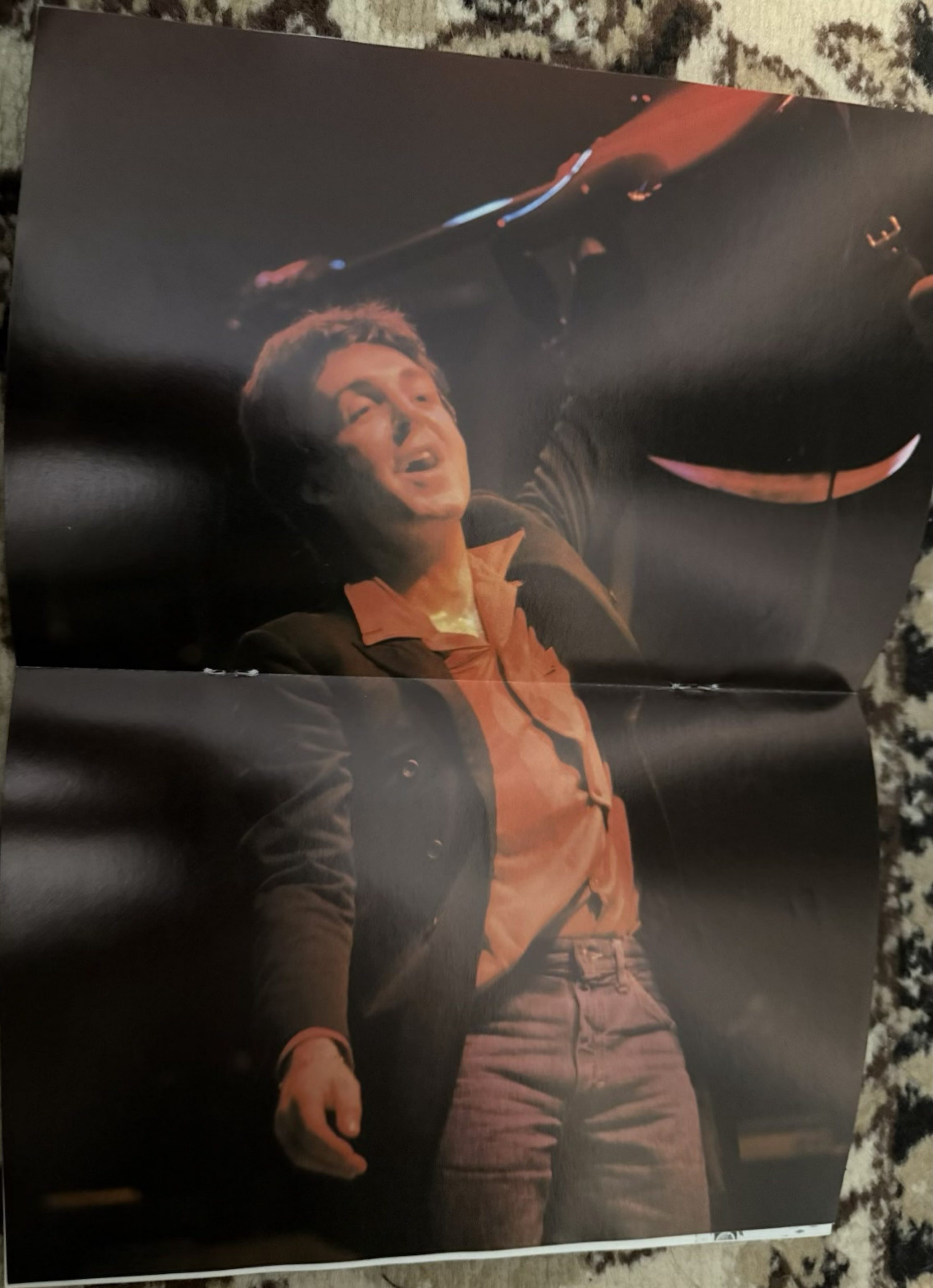


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functioning human being. I just went to pieces and I just realised that I needed her so much. I realised that I needed her more than she needed me and I always thought that the boot was on the other foot". John revealed that he was initially reluctant to participate in Yoko's avant garde projects of the late Sixties. "Some of the ideas that she wanted both of us to do then, I must say that I was more 'square' than I am now in a way, I wish we'd done because now other people have done them"

Recording with Yoko

John saw his future work as being a continuation of the partnership with Yoko. "I wouldn't enjoy just putting an album out by myself, having to do things by myself, having to go to the studio by myself. I didn't want to work with another guy even . . . we're presenting ourselves as a couple and to work with your best friend is a joy. I didn't intend to stop it".

"When we did 'Sometime in New York City', we were doing a 'newspaper'. One would rush it out 'into print'." Consequently, John and Yoko did not deliberate on clarity of tracks, over-dubbing or harmonies. "I started feeling down about that record, it was a mistake . . . we tried to say something about love and peace and we got into so much trouble . . . politics were in the air in those days; you couldn't avoid it . . . we wanted to be right there down on the frontline. Our intentions were good".

Love & Peace

"I still believe in love, peace; I still believe in positive thinking. I'm not always positive but when I am, I try to project it . . . we're going into an unknown future". Ironically, amongst the innumerable ironies to follow from him being slaughtered, John continued " . . . while there's life, there's hope!" Moreover, John commented that his work would not be finished " . . . until I'm dead and buried and I hope that's a long, long time". It was to be a few hours. John did not see himself as a leader or a preacher, although he was, in this writer's

view, tantamount to a world leader at his zenith.

'Religion misunderstood'

One of the alleged "justifications" for John being murdered was his lyric "Imagine there's no Heaven . . . and no religion too". Another irony is that John's comments upon Christianity had again been totally misunderstood by ignorant interpretation. John set the position straight in the interview. "The concept of imagining no religion, not imagining no God . . . imagining no demoninations . . . Imagine no Jew/Christian . . . that we allow freedom of religion for real". Perhaps the most potent observation upon this tricky minefield of John's work is that his phrases "Give Peace A Chance" or "All You Need Is Love" were pre-empted by another murdered by those who misunderstood 2,000 years ago.

John observed that manned flight and the moon landings, both of which became technological achievements of outstanding merit in their respective era, had to be imagined by someone initially. John thus saw a definite link between imagining (or "goal setting") and actual attainment. "Project the future in a positive way", was John's message.

A happy man

This, then, is but a short precis of an interview which displayed John Lennon to be the happy, relaxed and optimistic man that "Double Fantasy" suggested he was. Gone was the tortured bitterness of his "Janor" period and the un-ease of having to conform to the Beatle image. John had clearly come to terms with himself and reached the end of a long, winding and hussle ridden road. We had one more album, a few more interviews and food for thought from the Master before his death. There was and is almost a macabre logic to the events of late 1980. In the retrospect of these years after his murder, we can perhaps draw solace because W.R.K.O. interview shows that the man that advocated peace for all, found some for himself.

ASK MARK

MARK LEWISOHN'S LETTERS PAGE



Dear "Beatles Now"

A friend recently picked up a bundle of sheet music at a local Summer Fair and there hidden amongst a dozen or so Beatles songs was one called "You Can't Say I Never Told You", written by Lennon-McCartney and dated 1965.

I've never heard of this song before and I've looked in vain through a few Beatles books but can find no mention of this rarity. Please can you tell me anything about it and also advise approximately how much you think my find is worth?.

Jim Kennett, Devizes

Dear Jim,

I too have a copy of the same sheet music although I can assure you that they are not easy to find. Indeed they are quite rare and I would estimate their value at about £20.

The song "You Can't Say I Never Told You" was released in 1965 by girl singer Suzy Cope. It appeared on the CBS label, number 201792. The record label lists the composers as 'Miles' and the publishing company is listed as Dick James Music. Research has revealed that our sheet music exists purely because of a disastrous printing mistake at the factory who typeset all of Dick James' music. Therefore what you have is **not** an unreleased Beatles song but the evidence of an ex-printers dismissal!

Dear "Beatles Now"

I'm only 9 years old but love the Beatles more than any other group in the world.

I'm doing a school project about them but I'm not sure of the exact date George was born. Was it 1942 or 1943?

Cindy Fairweather, Great Yarmouth

Dear Cindy,

George Harrison was born at 12 Arnold Grove, Liverpool 15, on Thursday February 25th 1943.

Thanks for reading "Beatles Now" and good luck with the project!

Dear "Beatles Now"

Although the Decca Tapes are "Old hat" now, I wondered if you can give me a list of ALL the tracks recorded at this session.

Most people know the 15 songs that were released on a bootleg, and in addition to these the "Beatles at the Beeb" book states that "Please Mr. Postman, Red Sails In The Sunset, and Your Feet Too Big" were also recorded.

Paul McCabe, Merseyside, Liverpool

Dear Paul,

The precise list of which songs the Beatles recorded at their Decca audition has always been a matter of conjecture simply because if an official session sheet exists it has not, thus far come to light. Because of this authors and researchers have had to resort to their own initiative (dangerous!) and guesswork in listing possible tracks laid down.

My own feeling is that they recorded 15 tracks only (Love Of The Loved; Money; Sure To Fall; Take Good Care Of My Baby; Like Dreamers Do; Till There Was You; The Sheik Of Araby; To Know Him Is To Love Him; Memphis, Tennessee; Hello Little Girl; Crying, Waiting, Hoping; September in the Rain; Three Cool Cats; Searchin'; Besame Mucho) - as featured on bootlegs and recent 'official' albums. The tape the bootleggers acquired in the late '70's was certainly from the master and I would find it hard to believe that they have been holding any other tracks back.

It would be nice to be proved wrong!

as I write this letter

Dear "Beatles Now",
I have just read and very much enjoyed issue 7 of Beatles Now, except John Squire's article on the No. 9 connection. I feel that this type of article is on the same kind of level as the "Paul is Dead" story. Thinking along these lines might give some people satisfaction, but I personally think that Mr. Squire has gone a bit overboard in the presentation of his text. As with the "Paul is Dead" story, you could virtually go on for ever finding connections with the number 9. Take for example his remark that the time of death - 11.07 - is such that the digits add to 9. The time of death could have been any of dozens of different times and the digits would still add to 9. If the time had been eg. 12.24, 5.40, 6.03, 1.35 etc. then no doubt Mr Squire would still have applied his little mathematical rule.

I am also critical of his interpretation of John and Yoko's lyrics. Mr. Squire's interpretation only makes sense given the hindsight we have. Interpret the words as indicative of the J/Y relationship before Dec. 8 and they make much more sense. Any set of lyrics will give different messages to different people. How many people are incited to murder, ala Charles Manson, after reading the words to Helter Skelter? Thankfully, not many; although I have read several times of Beatles' lyrics being interpreted mistakingly, with dire consequences. Surely only the composer of the song could ever know its true meaning.

Obviously, a lot of Mr. Squire's article is just speculation, and I will forgive him for that; but what disturbs me is the conviction behind his statements: "These lyrics without doubt foretell John's feelings". How does he know what John meant?

I am not against this type of feature - what I am against is the statements made in such an article being presented as absolute fact.

Paul Curtis, Co. Durham

Dear "Beatles Now"
I liked the article on the No. 9 influence on John's life in issue No. 7. I believe that one of the reasons for this number re-occurring in John's life is it's mystical significance. A nine is an inverted six and six during the time of Christ was considered the devils number. John was not passive about the evil in the world but persued it actively as if to turn the devil upside down. John's assassin was acting under perverted religious beliefs. He was the six who wanted to turn John upside down. When the "number 9" part of "Revolution No. 9" is played backwards it says "Turn me on dead man". Judas Iscariot's name means give praise dagger man. Was Chapman the Judas fortold in this prophetic recording?

Tim Mazzanti, Lake Village, Arkansas, USA

Dear Beatles Now,
With reference to No. 9 Story issue No 7. John's first home was No. 9 Newcastle Road (near Penny Lane), also John's Uncle Charlie (age 64) tells me his mother, Johns Grandmother died in 1949, John was NINE years old. When Cavern Mecca move into the new CAVERN WALKS on the site of the old Cavern Club, it will be called NUMBER NINE DREAM!!

Eddie Porter, Liverpool

Dear "Beatles Now",
While watching the B A Robertson film "Living Apart Together", I noticed his wonderful Abbey Road Pullover.

What I would like to know is that: Is there a pattern available for this sweater and if so, where can I write to get one?

Yours,
Stephen Hope, Glasgow, Scotland.

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"The Complete Beatles U.S. Record Price Guide"

by Perry Cox and Joe Lindsay

Published by O'Sullivan Woodside & Co.
\$10.95

There have been many Beatles discographies dealing with the U.S.A. catalogue, most notably Mark Wallgren's excellent *"The Beatle on Record"*. This book, one of a series of "Price Guides", covering many different artistes, is the first that I have seen that deals comprehensively with the relative values of the Beatles' Records.

One word of caution, however definite a record's value appears to be, it is worth precisely what a potential buyer is prepared to pay, in the market, at the time of sale. Appropriately, the title of this book uses the word "guide", because it is impossible to give any more than a guide to the value of records. The authors use the condition of "near mint" on their valuations, and as all collectors are aware, different people have their own opinion of what a records condition is. Usually, the seller is of the opinion that a record is in a better condition than the buyer would admit! It is fair to say, however, that a near mint copy of "The Beatles vs. The Four Seasons" is worth more than "The Beatles Story" and I would be very willing to sell my copy of the rare Vee Jay double album for the quoted price of \$350!!

The book lists all Beatles and ex-Beatles records in alphabetical title order, and I can appreciate that - with all the plethora of American re-issues and label variations - such a list is easier to follow than a strict chronological order. In fact, there is an introductory discography in chronological order, with cross references to the alphabetical price guide in the main body of the book.

The authors explain various details of the discs and covers, where necessary, and also whether or not counterfeits exist - an important point to know when dealing with rare and costly records. The known distinguishing marks on fakes are explained, and should help to prevent collectors from being conned by sellers of such records.



Illustrations are of a high standard, with photographs of many sleeves, labels, and logos - the variety of which is vast!

Promotional issues are also covered, and this serves to emphasise the much greater importance that seems to be placed on such discs in the States than in the U.K. American promos are usually two copies of one song, thus providing two copies for airplay purposes, often one in mono and one in stereo.

In case you are wondering which is the most valuable record, you would apparently need \$1,800 to buy a near mint copy of "My Bonnie" by "Tony Sheridan and The Beat Brothers" on the original Decca 31382 disc! "Near mint" is a term well explained by the authors, who also give a guide as to the relative value of records in varying conditions, as compared to the "near mint" valuation. The differences between various picture sleeves, inner sleeve, the label designs and between mono and stereo versions of the same record, are all explained. There is even a paragraph that details the differences in sleeve construction between the various factories of Capitol Records!

This is a book to "dip into", not one that was designed to be read from cover to cover. It is a valuable reference book which, if the values and conditions are treated with caution, should prove to be a useful companion to the more usual discographies on the market. Buy this book and insure your collection!!

Steven Baker *Essbee 1983

IMAGINE....

Lennon was a monster, it's easy (and profitable) if you try!

STEVE PHILLIPS

When John Lennon's most celebrated opus invited us to use our imagination, several journalists and authors took him too literally. Since his death, any person with even the remotest of connections with him has been able to present their version of the supposedly "real" Lennon and the point to remember is that false representations of a dead man cannot land these people in court. They never made any such character assassination noises during John's lifetime because they could be sued for defaming him if found to be lying. Now, dead J L is fair game for inventive authors and those who fell off the Beatles gravy train. Let's examine the "revelations" of the "real" John Lennon and see if the facts support the mud slingers:

Allegation: Yoko was ready to leave John, she was bored with him.

Fact: they had made a long list of things that they wanted to do together.

Allegation: John had cracked up during his 5 year "hiatus" and was kept in the seclusion of the Dakotas.

Fact: John travelled extensively during the 5 year "hiatus".

Allegation: May Pang was forced to have a physical relationship with Lennon.

Fact: Yoko had arranged John's fling with May Pang with the consent of all three.

Allegation: John frequented sex parlours in the late 1976 in New York.

Fact: The Lennons spent late 1976 in Japan.

Allegation: John went on a drug binge during his 5 year "hiatus".

Fact: John had to stop taking drugs in order to be able to father Sean, he had a semen defect and an actipuncturist advised him to take no more drugs or booze. The post-mortem on John's body showed no signs of drugs in his system.

Allegation: John kicked baby Sean in the head.
(this daft slur requires no reply other than laughter).

The upsetting tirade of newspaper articles seeking to destroy the Lennon image to my mind serve no purpose because, love or hate him, your opinion of Lennon is always unchanged at the end of reading such sensationalist garbage. It's sad that the facts aren't even right in such articles and pathetic that the likes of Peter Brown and May Pang have betrayed a man who makes both of them more important than they probably are. No-one mentions his charitable work through the Spirit Foundation, his genius, his wit and his being the greatest gift to music since the metronome. That wouldn't sell newspapers, though, would it?

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Adverts cost 5p per word. Do not mention 'bootleg records' for sale.

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SERIOUS COLLECTOR FROM ISRAEL wants to buy/trade Beatles/Solo records, tapes and video (VHS PAL ONLY!) with fans from all over the world. Write to Daniel Beller, Rehavat Ha-Guilboa 51/10 Shikun "Hey", Beer Sheva 84 746, Israel.

BEATLES VIDEO. For trade only VHS, PAL, SECAM, NTSC. Your list gets mine. Bob. PO Box 1061, Great Neck, NY 11023, USA

BEATLES RECORD LIST available, SAE to Steve Halmes, 15 Ganton Walk, Dovecotes, Pendeford, West Midlands, England

A DAY IN THE LIFE: After Mark Chapman's religious conversion thirteen years ago, the standard joke in his circles was "Imagine. Imagine John Lennon dead". During the next thirteen years Chapman would often voice his hatred for John. According to New York Magazine, when he left the army camp where he worked with Vietnamese refugees the last thing that he said to his friends and acquaintances was, "About five years from now, one of us will do something famous, and it will bring us all together." This was in December 1975. Between then and the time that he killed John he allegedly tried to commit suicide twice. Why didn't he try shooting himself? A police officer who was early on the scene of John's assassination said that he'd seen crazy people before and in his opinion, Chapman was not crazy. In a closed trial, Mark David Chapman was found sane and guilty of murder. The chief witness for the defence, who testified to Chapman's insanity, was indicted for perjury.

The entire world was told the lie that Chapman was probably a Beatle fan who thought he was John. What witnesses remember about Chapman and John's assassination has no doubt changed in the wake of the lie. Let us retrieve the facts before they become buried too far in the past.

Sean wants to know what really happened to his father, and so do we all. Let us remain open to all the possibilities and do our best to find the truth. This is not capitalizing on John's death. This is a divine quest.

It appears that Chapman hated John and went kamikazi. We know that over the years there were some who helped fuel this hate. Conspiracy is a very real possibility.

"All we want is the truth." - John Lennon

"The most important quality in a knight is truth. Every time a person lies, he murders part of the world." - Merlin

"God is truth more than anything else."

- Mahatma Gandhi

"The truth will set you free." - Jesus Christ

On behalf of the honest decent people of the world, we wish to apologize for this lie to John and his family and friends.

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Fab four facts...

Collated by STEVE PHILLIPS

If you can think of any interesting but brief 'Fab four fact' for this new regular feature, send them to; Steve Phillips, c/o Beatles Now, PO box 307, Walthamstow, London E17 4LL and mark your envelope 'Fab four facts'.

- ★ Statistics are usually a bore but the figures relating to the Beatles' records sales world-wide, to the end of 1981*, make amazing reading. If you have every record sold by the Beatles to the end of that year, you could give one to every man, woman and child in the People's Republic of China! You would still have a hundred million or so records left over!
- ★ John was a millionaire 150 times over at the time of his death.
- ★ Paul started his musical career on trumpet!
- ★ When John first met Yoko, she didn't know who he was!
- ★ George was sent home from school for wearing narrow-legged, "drainpipe" trousers.
- ★ Paul earns just under £3,000 an hour.
- ★ Ringo spells certain words phonetically.
- ★ Statistically, if not in reality, one person in three in the world has a Beatles record.
- ★ During the Cavern days, George became self-conscious about his singing and was caught by Bob Wooler secretly trying an echo chamber device.
- ★ The Beatles re-united in 1974 privately to discuss working together again. The result of the Los Angeles conference was a decision to stay solo.
- ★ George contacted Paul to arrange an appearance with Wings at the Hammer-smith Odeon Kampuchea concert. For some unexplained reason, although both were keen to play together, George did not take part in the gig.
- ★ At the time of the Beatles split, Yoko was richer than John.
- ★ Ringo ad-libbed most of his lines in "That'll Be The Day".
- ★ The financial arrangements of the Beatles first recording contract were very poor, they instructed Allen Klein to negotiate a better deal in 1968. The band deliberately filled the "White Album" with as many titles as possible so as to end the first contractual obligation of a quota of songs.

*E.M.I. official figure 900 million sales, which exceeds the Guinness Book of Records figure of only 100 million.



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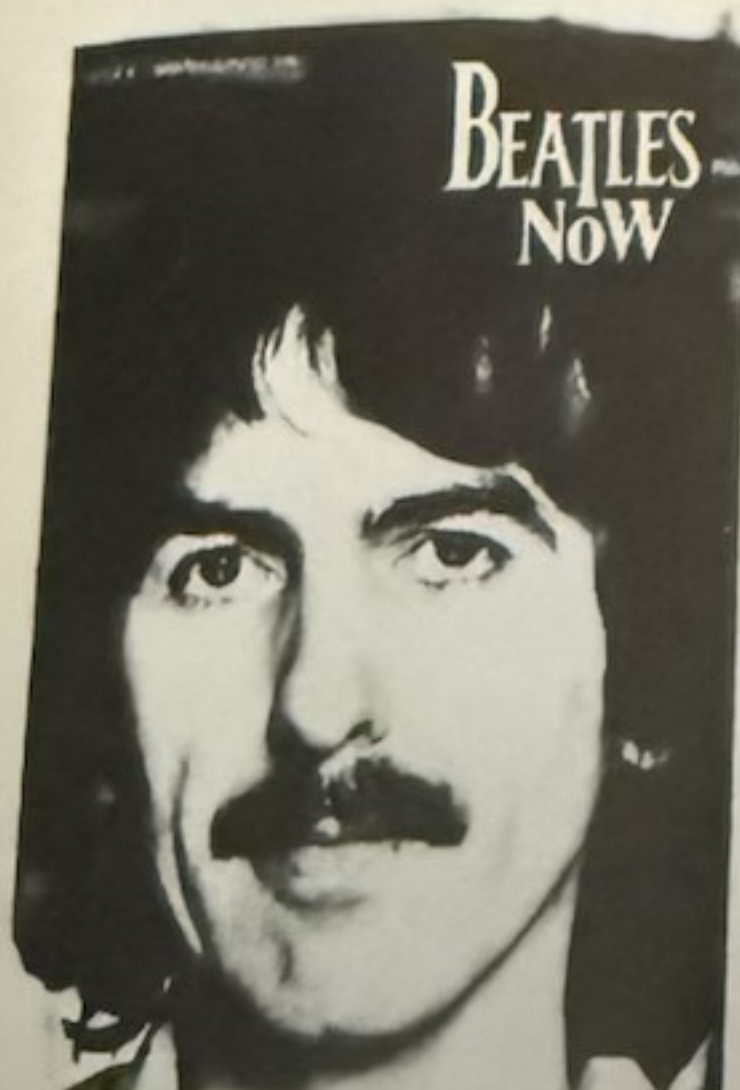
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